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Thursday, February 14, 2013

THE MORNING NEWS

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Oranjestad Tram Service promised to start today or tomorrow



Tram route

Oranjestad without hunting for parking. It is expected this will ease the traffic through the city.

The tram will operate six days a week, Monday through Saturday, from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Cost for a ride is only \$1.

Staff from Arubus, which operates the tram, remarked on one problem they noticed during Tuesday's dry run. Island motorists must be more conscious of the tram being up and running.

There was a notable tendency to park in places that will interfere with its operation; some cars found directly

across the tracks. The tram is also wider than the tracks, so motorists must allow at least a five foot margin on either side when parking near the tram tracks.

This can become a serious problem interfering with the tram's efficient operation, and Arubus has requested the Department of Public Works, (DOW) to paint yellow lines and place warning signs. This is not expect to be completed before the tram begins operation, so visitors to town should take care when parking their car anywhere near the tracks.

By Rosalie Klein

Rey Momo burns! Farewell to Aruba's Carnival 59



Rey Momo is pictured at left, and at right the burning of Rey Momo. (See story on pg 4)

Aruba's new solar-powered tram was seen on the streets on Tuesday, February 12 for a dry run, and Arubus Director Theo Croes promised the public the tram will be up and running either today or tomorrow, Friday, February 15.

The tram route begins by the Cruise Ship Terminal on the outskirts of Oranjestad, taking visitors through to the main street of Caya G. F. Betico Croes for some of the best shopping and easy access to historical sites.

Stops along the way will be in Rancho, by the ARINA Building behind the bus station, Plaza Museo, adjacent to Fort Zoutman, Plaza Chipi Chipi, in front of La Moderna store, the water tower, Plaza Nicky, by the CMB Bank, Seaport Mall and Royal Plaza Mall.

The tram is modified with a hydraulic lift to accommodate wheelchairs and the disabled. It runs strictly on solar power, and will cost pennies to operate. This will provide much more convenient access for cruise ship passengers to the center of town. Also shoppers can now park outside of Oranjestad or behind the bus terminal and access the far eastern areas of



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For Valentine's Day the restaurants at Paseo Herencia will provide special menu's for you and your loved ones to come and celebrate a romantic evening. On plaza

Padu at 6 pm, visitors will be entertained by romantic music under the stars by saxophonist Jan Paul Carrasquilla.

For a special gift, stores at Paseo Herencia offer a wide variety of selection. Stores like Baci d aroma, Kapri-cho, Havana Ninesa, La boutique and It moda & stile offer discounts up to 50%. Maggy's has a scratch and win promotion and Pandora offers two unique gift sets for the special occasion of Valentine's day.

For those who cannot make up their mind Paseo Herencia gift certificate are available at the parking cashier.



Stores at Paseo are open Monday - Saturday from 10am till 10 pm and on Sunday from 5pm till 10pm.

The Cinemas at Paseo also offers a wide selection of new releases movies.

Parking is available in the parking garage at the minimal fee of \$0.60 per hour.

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Renaissance Marketplace Valentine's Day offers



Café The Plaza

- 3 course menu \$28
- Appetizer: Creamy potato soup with bacon -or- Mixed salad with grilled chicken
- Entrée: Land and Sea Filet mignon and shrimp served with à portobello red Wine sauce -or- Duo of Mahi Mahi and grouper with à white Wine sauce
- Dessert: Chocolate mousse with whipped cream



Cilo City Lounge

- 3 course menu \$65 per couple
- Appetizer: Seasonal salad with marinated artichoke and grilled salmon served with sweet tomato salsa.
- Entrée: Grilled tenderloin combined with mahi mahi severed with fried onion rings & creamy herb sauce with garlic.
- Dessert: Valentine's strawberry heart.



Cuba's Cookin'

- 3 course menu Afl. 110
- Dine & enjoy a Free Cuban Cabaret show



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Hung Paradise

- 10% off on chicken dishes. Cash only.



Grand Café Tropical

- Surprise valentine cocktail \$5



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- *Offer valid on February 13 & 14



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When bee and bud and babbling flood
Bespeak the birth of spring,
Come, sweetheart,
be my sweetheart
And wear this posy-ring!

Sweetheart, be my sweetheart
In the mellow golden glow
Of earth aflush with the gracious blush
Which the ripening fields foreshow;
Dear sweetheart,
be my sweetheart,
As into the noon we go!

Sweetheart, be my sweetheart
When falls the bounteous year,
When fruit and wine of tree and vine
Give us their harvest cheer;
Oh, sweetheart,
be my sweetheart,
For winter it draweth near.

Sweetheart,
be my sweetheart
When the year is white and old,
When the fire of youth is spent, forsooth,
And the hand of age is cold;
Yet, sweetheart,
be my sweetheart
Till the year of our love be told!

by Eugene Field

Caribbean Festival is back in San Nicolas tonight!

Commencing its third season since its June 2011 debut, the weekly Caribbean Festival will again take over the streets of San Nicolas tonight from 6:00 to 10:00 PM. The event's name reflects the multi-cultural makeup of the San Nicolas community, where so many immigrants from every corner of the Caribbean settled when they came to work in the Lago Refinery in the 1930's.

They brought with them to Aruba rich traditions, such as



carnival, their own style of music, cuisine and dance,

which their descendents lovingly honor and maintain.

These have also combined with native Aruban culture for a heady mélange of entertainment, food booths and musical performances that is the Caribbean Festival.

There are three staging areas for musical performances, set up with tables for comfortable dining while enjoying the show. On the main stage this evening, expect to experience Le Groove and Upgrade Music, as well as a traditional carnival show.

Mindful that it is Valen-

tine's Day, the theme of tonight's festival is pink and red. Tickets, which include transportation to and from the festival from all resorts, plus varied packages for meal and beverages, can be purchased through a hotel concierge or at De Palm Tours desks.

If you Aruba's carnival, enjoy the ambiance of the Caribbean Festival for a true taste of regional culture and traditions, and an exhilarating carnival show.

By Rosalie Klein



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Rey Momo burns! Farewell to Carnival 59



those gathered to bid Carnival 59 farewell in one final night of bacchanalia.

A sumptuously garbed Rey Momo burned at the stroke of midnight, heralding in Ash Wednesday and Lent. The ritual burning, punctuated by an explosion of fire-

work embedded in the effigy, also helps to frighten away evil spirits, protecting the island and its inhabitants until carnival is resurrected again on November 11.

SAC members expressed their thanks to all the organizations, artists, performers

and carnival groups that contributed their time and talents towards making Carnival 59 another memorable celebration of life.

By Rosalie Klein



A final night of farewell was conducted on Tuesday, February 12, as island carnival fanatics enjoyed one last evening of the idiosyncratic music, dance and pageantry that is Aruba's largest cultural event.

The complete pantheon of carnival royalty for this year, the Prins and Pancho and Carnival Queens, along with the volunteers of the Stichting Arubaanse Carnival, (SAC) the foundation that organizes and conducts the events, were on hand to set alit an effigy of Rey Momo.

The festive figure stems from Caribbean lore, ruling the night and overseeing celebrations of wild abandonment; in other words: the ultimate party animal!

This year's top winning Tumba contestants, including King Jeffrey Kelly and a parade of bands entertained all

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Japan women, not men, throng stores for Valentines

TOKYO (AFP) - Japanese women packed out stores on Wednesday to buy Valentine's Day chocolates for all the men in their lives -- partners, friends and bosses -- while the men sat back with nothing expected in return.

The traffic in Japan is all one-way on February 14, with men free to sit back and wait for the boxes of goodies to pour in. A month from now, Japan celebrates White Day, when men are required to reciprocate with a white gift.

Chocolate has been available in Japan since at least 1797, when it was given to prostitutes by Dutch traders - the only Europeans allowed a foothold in an otherwise closed country where traveling abroad was punishable by death.

Today, more than anywhere else, Japan's \$11 billion chocolate business is driven by special days confectioned by the advertising industry to get cash tills ringing. Fully half that total is spent in February, according to retailers.

Not all men are treated equally. The more expensive "honmei" (true love) chocolate is reserved for the husband or lover.

Cheaper "giri" (obligation) chocolate goes to co-workers, from the guy who brings the mail to your desk all the way up to the boss of the company.

Valentine's Day appeared in Japan as a special occasion in the late 1950s, as the economy was picking up steam after the long, lean years following World War II.

Western products gave an air of sophistication in a country bursting with energy and getting a taste for luxury and wealth after decades of bone-grinding austerity.

It was into this aspirational mix that companies hit upon the idea of marketing Valentine's Day, when a firm called Mary Chocolate began advertising February 14 as "the only day of the year a woman professes her love through presenting chocolate".

The rule was thus established and the underwear,

jewellery or flowers given in other parts of the developed world were banished, leaving

chocolate the sole currency of Valentine's romance.

Two decades after Valen-

tine's Day took hold, White Day -- March 14th -- was introduced as a way to sell gifts

to men, who were told they must buy something white for the ladies in their lives.

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Pope urges end to hypocrisy at final mass

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Benedict XVI urged an end to "religious hypocrisy" and "rivalry" in the Catholic Church as he donned his papal mitre for the last time for an emotional mass in St. Peter's Basilica on Wednesday.

The 85-year-old pope was hailed with a standing ovation and waves of applause from a congregation of thousands where many broke down in tears, as cardinals doffed their mitres in a final gesture of respect.

Wearing the purple robes of Lent -- a period of penitence for Christians -- the pope was conveyed through the basilica's vast nave on a mobile platform that underlined his growing infirmity.

Benedict called for greater sincerity in his final mass as leader of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics before he becomes only the second pontiff to resign voluntarily in the Church's 2,000-year history.

He condemned "religious hypocrisy" and urged an end to "individualism and rivalry."

"The face of the Church... is at times disfigured. I am thinking in particular of the

sins against the unity of the Church," he said, a possible reference to the many scandals plaguing the institution.

Christ "denounces religious hypocrisy, a behaviour that seeks applause and approval. The true disciple does not serve himself or the 'public', but his Lord, in simplicity and generosity," Benedict said.

The pope cut short the applause at the end of mass, saying "Let's return to prayer", before leaving the basilica, waving and smiling at the congregation.

The Vatican announced that cardinal electors -- the princes of the Church -- will meet on March 15 or soon after to choose Benedict's successor.

"The beginning of the conclave cannot be before March 15," Vatican spokesman Federico Lombardi told a press conference. "We have to expect a conclave starting on the 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th or 19th."

The secret conclave held in the Sistine Chapel under Michelangelo's famed ceiling frescoes -- deliberations that normally last a few days -- should produce a new pope in time for Easter.

Pakistan watchdog cautions media over Valentine's Day

ISLAMABAD (AFP) - Pakistan's media regulator Wednesday asked television and radio stations to avoid offending religious sentiments and corrupting the nation's youth in their Valentine's Day broadcasts.

While stopping short of an outright ban, the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulator Authority (PEMRA) circulated a letter saying it was acting on complaints that celebrating the day was not in line with "our religious and cultural ethos".

"Such events have been perceived as a source of depraving, corrupting and injuring the morality of Pakistani youth as well as violating Code of Conduct developed by PEMRA," the watchdog's letter said.

"All satellite TV chan-

nels/FM stations are, therefore requested to honour viewer's sentiments/opinion while conceptualising any programme or celebrating any event connected to The Valentine's Day," it added.

Valentine's Day is increasingly popular among younger Pakistanis, many of whom have taken up the custom of giving cards, chocolates and gifts to their sweethearts to celebrate the occasion.

But Pakistan remains a deeply traditional Muslim society where many disapprove of Valentine's Day as a Western import.

A PEMRA official told AFP that the regulator had not banned Valentine's Day programme broadcast, but instead issued a request to channels in the wake of public complaints.



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US experts press for tough tack on fake medicines

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Health experts are urging the United States and other countries to boost their ability to identify fake or subpar medicines and close loopholes that allow products to be falsified or diluted.

In an international system in which different companies in many countries make ingredients for single treatments, no country alone can effectively enforce quality control on drugs that can be the fine line between life and death, stressed a report by the independent Institute of Medicine (IOM).

"Falsified and substandard medicines are a grave public health problem because they are ineffective, promote drug resistance, and even cause severe illness and death, particularly in developing countries where they regularly flood the market," said Lawrence Gostin, health law

expert at Georgetown University Law Center who led the group of 12 experts who did the study.

"We're calling on WHO, in collaboration with regulators, companies, and civil society worldwide, to adopt a global

code of practice, build national regulatory capabilities, and promote international cooperation," Gostin said.

Fake versions of the cancer drug Avastin were given to US patients in 2011 and 2012, for example.



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International News

Rebels seize most of army base in north Syria: NGO

BEIRUT (AFP) - Syrian rebels took control of most of a strategic army base in northern Syria after a fierce firefight with President Bashar al-Assad's forces on Wednesday, a monitoring group said.

The military complex, known as Base 80, is tasked with securing the nearby Aleppo international airport as well as the Nayrab military airport.

"Fierce clashes pitting troops against rebels loyal to Al-Nusra Front, Liwa al-Tawhid, Al-Muhajireen and other groups raged near Base 80, most of which has come under insurgent control," said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The fighting came a day after rebels in Aleppo province seized a military airport at Al-Jarrah and launched an assault on other air bases in the area, including the Aleppo international airport, closed since January 1.

Dozens of fighters and troops have been killed in the fighting, the Britain-based Observatory said.

Activists have said Aleppo's insurgents shifted their focus from targets in the provincial capital to air bases because they are a source of ammunition and weaponry, and to put out of action warplanes used to bomb rebel bastions.

In Aleppo city itself, meanwhile, there was no supply of electricity or water Wednesday for a fourth day in a row, said the anti-regime Aleppo Media Centre, warning of a "humanitarian disaster" in what was once Syria's commercial hub.

Commenting on the rebels' advance in Aleppo province, Observatory director Rami

Abdel Rahman said the army may be giving up on parts of northern Syria, in order to secure the centre.

"The army is barely resisting the rebels' advance on bases in the north. Meanwhile, it is resisting with ferocity the insurgents in Daraya (south-west of Damascus) and Homs (in central Syria)," Abdel Rahman told AFP.

"The regime understands it cannot survive a transition without securing some land to bargain with," he added.

Despite the advances, regime warplanes remained active in Aleppo province on Wednesday, carrying out bombing raids on the outskirts of the town of Sfeira, southeast of Aleppo, and Al-Bab, north-west of Syria's second city, said the Observatory.

Further south, the air force launched at least 10 bombing raids on rebel-held Deir al-Asafeer near Damascus, according to the Syrian Revolution General Commission, a grassroots network of activists.

Meanwhile, on the eastern and western edges of the central city of Homs, rebels clashed with troops on two main highways, a rebel commander said.

Arraba Idriss told AFP via Skype that the insurgents are trying to "ease the pressure on people trapped in districts that have been besieged and bombarded" for some eight months by the army.

At least 190 people were killed in violence across Syria on Tuesday, said the Observatory, among them 79 troops and 76 rebels, making it an exceptionally bloody day for fighters on both sides.

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Lovers' Menu

APPETIZER
Sautéed Conch
OR
Grilled Chorizo & Morcilla

ENTRÉE
Grilled Tenderloin
OR
Fresh Grouper fillet with Garlic Shrimps
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For every love there is a heart somewhere to receive it."**
-Ivan Panin quotes (Russian mathematician 1855-1942)

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Health & Living

Chinese woman dies of bird flu



BEIJING (AFP) - A woman in southwestern China died of bird flu on Wednesday, state media said, a rare case in the country of a fatality from the H5N1 virus since a major outbreak a decade ago.

The 21-year-old patient from Guiyang passed away 13 days after showing symptoms, Xinhua news agency said, citing the health ministry.

Another city resident, a 31-year-old man who developed signs of the virus around the same time, was reported over the weekend to be in critical condition.

More than 365 people have died of bird flu globally since an 2003 outbreak, the World Health Organisation said in its latest report.

It noted that China has seen one fatal case per year since 2010, down from a total of 25

from 2003 to 2009.

The H5N1 virus typically spreads from birds to humans through direct contact, but experts fear it could mutate into a form transmissible between humans.

Xinhua said neither of the Guiyang residents had come into close contact with birds and their cases appeared to be unrelated.

China is considered one of the nations most at risk from bird flu epidemics because it has the world's biggest poultry population and many chickens in rural areas are kept close to humans.

Separate outbreaks among birds were reported last year in the northern region of Ningxia and the remote northwestern region of Xinjiang, prompting massive culls of chickens.




Valentine's Menu

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Online matchmaking a hit with Saudi couples

RIYADH (AFP) - In ultra-conservative Saudi Arabia, where the sexes are strictly segregated, traditional matchmakers face tough competition from blossoming marriage services on online social networks.

More than 200 Twitter accounts and dozens of other forums on the Internet offer services for Saudi men and women seeking spouses, angering matchmakers like Um Sami who sees it as "organised prostitution."

"Social networks undermine our work and everything they offer is virtual: they use nicknames and they are not reliable," said Um Sami, an elderly woman and well-established matchmaker from the Red Sea city of Jeddah.

For her, many of these websites are "fraudulent" and some are even an organised form of prostitution.

"Marriage via online platforms is one hundred percent doomed to failure," she said, stressing that only her traditional matchmaking method can lead to a successful marriage.

For matchmakers like Um Sami the business has flourished by word of mouth.

Families ready to marry off their offsprings contact her with details about their children and provide pictures which she carries around with her on rounds to match candidates.

But her job is not a simple one because, as she says, there are many different types of weddings that can be contracted in Saudi Arabia, from the traditional unions to unconventional ones by Western standards such as the "misyar" marriage.

A misyar -- or "visitor's" marriage -- is one in which

couples live separately but can meet up when they want, usually for sexual encounters.

It is allowed in Sunni-pow-erhouse Saudi Arabia but couples who choose to go that way will keep it a family secret shared only with the matchmaker.

Misyar is often the marriage of choice for polygamous men as well as divorcees and widows in Saudi Arabia, where extra-marital relations are strictly banned and punishable under rigid Islamic laws.

A couple caught having sex out of wedlock in Saudi Arabia are sentenced to stoning and lashes, and unmarried couples who dare share a meal in a restaurant or spend time together alone risk being arrested.

Human rights activists and intellectuals have slammed misyar marriages as a form of "legalised adultery."

Sci-Tech

Europol, Spanish police bust global cybercrime ring

MADRID (AFP) - Spanish police and Europol, the European Union's police coordination agency, have busted a global cybercrime operation that infected millions of computers, a source in the investigation told AFP.

The network used malicious software to block computers and send a message claiming to be from police demanding the user pay a fine for allegedly accessing child pornography sites, the source said.

The ring operated several small cells around the world and was able to collect large amounts of money with the scheme, the source said.

"One of these cells earned over one million euros," around \$1.3 million, the source said.

Several people were arrested but the final number could not yet be revealed because the operation remained open.

Europol director Rob Wainwright and Spain's secretary of state for security, Francisco Martinez, were due to give further details at a press conference later on Tuesday in Madrid.

Last month Europol opened a new cybercrime unit at its headquarters in The Hague aimed at fighting online offenses such as bank fraud and peddling images of the sexual abuse of minors.



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Roof collapses at Chernobyl nuclear plant: Ukraine

KIEV (AFP) - A section of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine collapsed under the weight of snow, officials said Wednesday, raising new concerns about the condition of the facility that was the site of the world's worst nuclear accident.

There were no injuries after Tuesday's accident nor any increase in radiation from the reactor that exploded in 1986, the country's emergency agency said.

French construction firms Vinci and Bouygues said Wednesday they had evacuated as a precaution around 80 employees working on a new protective shelter from the site.

The roof was constructed after the 1986 disaster but is not part of the sarcophagus structure covering the exploded reactor, it said.

However the collapse underlines concerns about the condition of the now defunct nuclear plant over two-and-a-half-decades after the explosion of reactor number four.

The 80 Vinci and Bouygues workers employed to set up the new shelter over the exploded reactor as part of the Novarka consortium were all given radiation checks and evacuated, a Bouygues spokesperson said.

However the spokeswoman

for the Chernobyl plant, Maya Rudenko, dismissed Greenpeace's concerns and said that the existing sarcophagus had been strengthened from 2004-2008 and could last until 2023.

The area of the accident is estimated at about 600 square metres, (6,500 square feet), the emergency agency said.

A statement on the website of the power station described the accident as the "partial failure of the wall slabs and light roof of the Unit 4 Turbine Hall."

Chernobyl is only around 100 kilometres (60 miles) from Ukraine's capital Kiev and lies close to the borders with Russia and Belarus. The area around

the plant is still very contaminated and is designated as a depopulated "exclusion zone".

Amid concerns about the state of the sarcophagus, an arch-shaped structure called the New Safe Confinement is being built nearby to slide over the existing sarcophagus covering the reactor.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is administering the fund to build the shelter with the help of donor contributions.

When it is finished in 2015, the structure will weigh 20,000 tonnes and span 257 metres (almost 850 feet). Since the final of the four reactors at the plant

was shut down in 2000, workers at the plant have been solely engaged in work to ensure safety.

Two workers were killed by the April 26, 1986 explosion and 28 other rescuers and staff died of radiation exposure in the next months. Tens of thousands of people needed to be evacuated and fears remain over the scale of damage to people's health.

In 1986 and 1987, the Soviet government sent more than half a million rescue workers, known as liquidators, to clear up the power station and decontaminate the surrounding area.

COMICS

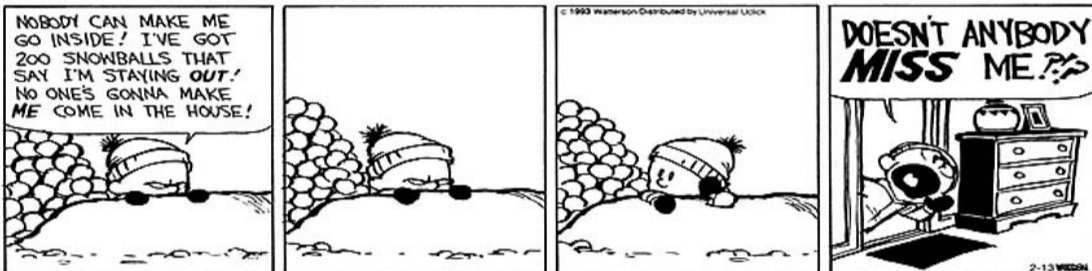
PICKLES



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REWARDS

ACROSS

1. Performs
5. Small desserts
10. Mr. Mooney, to Lucy
14. Thailand money
15. Alaskan native
16. Author Wiesel
17. Descendant of Mohammed
18. Dubious award
20. Throws off the track
22. Tilted
23. Force measures
24. Edict
25. Candle shop purchases
27. Forgoes
31. Author of "An Ideal Husband"
32. Peevish expression
33. Three, in Rome
34. "___ Man"
35. Puts in a postal box
36. Grow up
37. Jiff
38. Slangy denial
39. Daisylike flower
41. Brando's wear in "Streetcar"
44. Obscures
45. Skin bumps
46. Like 2, 3, and 5
47. Attractiveness
50. Egyptian hieroglyphic stone

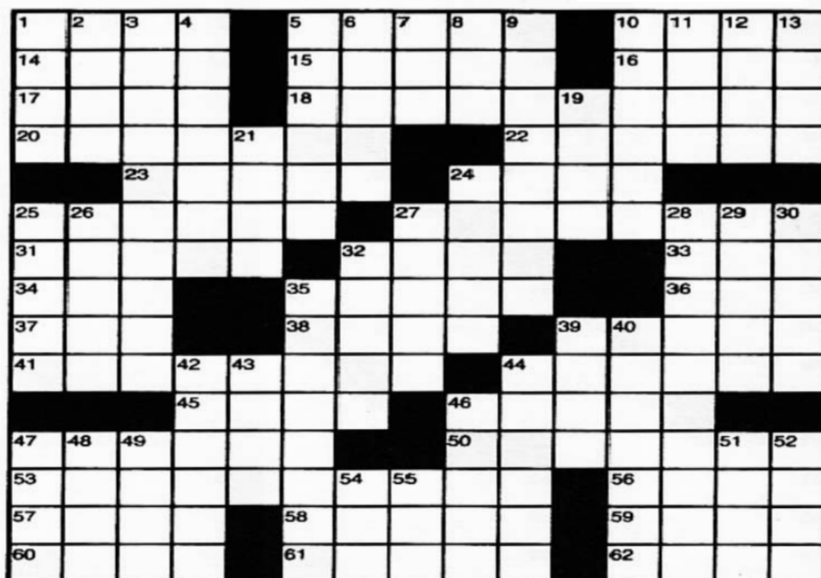
53. Award for the best cherry pie
56. Other: Sp.
57. Fast time
58. Hubbub
59. Bonn veto
60. Has a snack
61. Advantages
62. Being: Lat.

DOWN

1. Tucked in
2. "The Rains"
3. Show
4. Got sidetracked
5. "Separate"
6. Thrown for
7. Model T competitor

8. Slow vessel
9. Fashion coordinators
10. Put down
11. Ken or Lena
12. Magnitude
13. Sunflower's start
19. Some are black-eyed
21. Concerning
24. Imperfection
25. Dickens's Oliver
26. Songstress Mann
27. Case in
28. Oscars, e.g.
29. Encouraged
30. Scrutinizes
32. Twosomes
35. Having an accepted position

39. Baba and others
40. 1959 Johnny Mathis hit
42. Bait for Hansel and Gretel
43. Use the ears
44. Haridans
46. Narrative writing
47. Competent
48. Nolo contendere, e.g.
49. Skerry
51. Baseballer Speaker
52. Topnotch
54. Physique, for short
55. Huge

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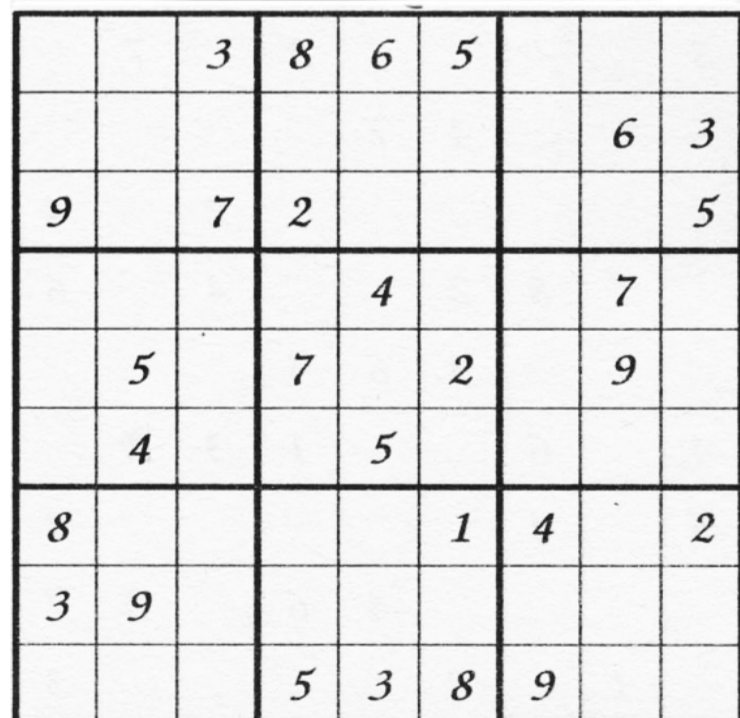
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8	5	9	2	7	1	6	4	3
2	8	7	1	6	9	5	3	4
1	8	2	9	5	3	6	7	4
7	6	5	2	8	4	9	1	3
9	4	5	6	7	1	8	3	2
5	7	8	1	2	4	9	6	3
6	9	1	7	4	6	2	8	5
6	2	4	5	9	8	3	1	7

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

Rubio responds to Obama: end tax hike 'obsession'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US Senator Marco Rubio, in the Republican response to Tuesday's State of the Union, challenged President Barack Obama to abandon his tax "obsession" and find a way to boost growth and cut the deficit.

The rising political star from Florida, who is regularly mentioned as a 2016 presidential candidate, laid out the framework of his party's economic vision, in excerpts of his formal response released ahead of Obama's address.

"The tax increases and the deficit spending you propose will hurt middle class families," he said. "There's no realistic tax increase that could lower our deficits by almost \$4 trillion.

"That's why I hope the president will abandon his obsession with raising taxes and instead work with us to achieve real growth in our economy."

Rubio returned to a recurring Republican theme of the 2012 presidential campaign and beyond, that Democrats are fixated on raising new tax revenue as a means of paring back the swelling US deficit and debt.

The 41-year-old Cuban-American touched on his own immigrant roots to drive home the message that conservative politics can have broad appeal.

"Mr. President, I still live in the same working class neighborhood I grew up in. My neighbors aren't millionaires," said Rubio, who is to deliver his speech in both English and Spanish.

"They're retirees who depend on Social Security and Medicare. They're workers who have to get up early tomorrow morning and go to work to pay the bills," he said.

"They're immigrants, who came here because they were stuck in poverty in countries where the government dominated the economy," he added.

"So Mr. President, I don't oppose your plans because I want to protect the rich. I oppose your plans because I want to protect my neighbors."

Obama, in excerpts released by the White House, is to propose re-igniting the US economic engine, while insisting "nothing I'm proposing tonight should increase our deficit by a single dime."

Apple loses rights to iPhone trademark in Brazil



BRASILIA (AFP) - Regulators in Brazil on Wednesday rejected Apple's application to register its iPhone trademark in the country, having already recognized a local manufacturer's claim to the name.

The Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) "denied Apple registration of the iPhone trademark," the institute's

press office told AFP. The decision was officially published by the INPI.

Apple had applied for exclusive rights to the iPhone name in Brazil in 2007 when it launched the wildly popular smartphone in the huge Latin American market.

But Brazilian manufacturer Gradiante SA had applied to register the brand "Gradiante iPhone" in 2000, and was granted rights to it in 2008.

Apple can still sell its smartphones in Brazil with the iPhone name, but Gradiante has the option of suing for exclusivity, the institute said.

The US high tech giant had petitioned the institute to cancel Gradiante's trademark, arguing that it had expired because the company had not used it in five years, the institute said.

But Gradiante surprised the market by launching a "Gradiante iPhone" at the end of the year, bringing the dispute to a head.

Its first iPhone family model, the Neo One, went on sale in December with a price tag of around \$300 while Apple's iPhone 5 -- also launched in December -- retails for more than triple the price.

Both Apple and Gradiante refused to comment on the INPI ruling.

Gradiante President Eugenio Emilio Staub made it clear in December that his company would "take all measures to ensure the preservation of our intellectual property rights in our country."

Gradiante's exclusivity

rights expire in 2018.

Among the criteria used by INPI for granting those rights are avoiding that two firms use the same name for a product, which would create confusion for consumers.

In 2007, Apple reached an out-of-court settlement with US computer giant Cisco, which had been granted rights to the iPhone brand name in 2000.

At the end of 2012, a Mexican court ruled in favor of the Mexican telecommunications firm Ifone in a similar trademark dispute with Apple.

With a population of 194 million people and 261 million mobile phones in use at the end of last year, Brazil is a prized market for leading telecom companies.

The domestic mobile phone market grew eight percent in 2012 over the previous year, according to data from Anatel, the national telecom agency.



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ALAMO AIDE OOPS
SLIPOFTHETONGUE
SAD ETO GEER
ARLO EWES
TAKEITONTHECHIN
AMAIN ETE OUSE
GIT GARRETS GNU
UGHS LAV ARMOR
PAYLIPSERVICETO
ATOP HADA
USMC AES PEA
FROMHANDTOMOUTH
OGLE LOUT ARRAS
PEER AWES JELLO



CARACAS (AFP) - : View of Venezuelan Bolivar notes in Caracas, on February 13, 2013. Venezuelans swamped stores on Tuesday to snap up everything from washing machines to plane tickets in a last-minute wave of panic-buying ahead of a 32 percent currency devaluation.



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Twenty Valentines - by Marion Mallette Thornton

Happy Valentine's Day

"Oh," said Millicent, watching the postman's blue coat up the street. "I wish he would come here day after tomorrow and bring me twenty valentines!"

"Will he, Mitty?" Jimmy-Boy asked eagerly.

Millicent shook her head. "Course not, Jimmy-Boy. I know only six little girls; I couldn't get but six."

Aunt Sara was listening. She was Millicent's very prettiest auntie from the city, and she nearly always found a way to help.

"How would you like to send twenty valentines?" she asked.

Millicent laughed. "Why, auntie, I couldn't send but six, either. I don't know any more girls. Besides, I haven't any more valentines."

"Suppose I should show you how to make twenty valentines, and find twenty little girls to send them to; would you like, to do it?"

Millicent came running from the window with Jimmy-Boy close behind her.

"I'd love to, auntie! Please show me right away."

"Love to, auntie, right away," echoed Jimmy-Boy.

"You can help," Aunt Sara promised. "You can bring the mucilage while Millicent gets the scissors."

When they came back with these, Aunt Sara had a pile of gay pictures on the table, and some sheets of thick white paper.

"We will cut this into hearts," she said, "and you can cut out these birds and flowers and paste them on. Let's see which can make the neatest and prettiest ones."

Jimmy-Boy had to be helped a little in cutting out pictures, but he had learned to paste neatly at kindergarten, and his valentines were so pretty it was hard for Aunt Sara to choose between his and Millicent's.

It was such fun making them that Millicent almost forgot about the twenty little girls they were to go to.

"Who are they, auntie?" she asked when she remembered. "Where do they live?"

"Away down in the city," Aunt Sara explained. "Each one in a little white bed in a Children's Hospital. I don't know their names, but I'll send them to the superintendent, and they will get them safely on Valentine's Day. You can't think how happy they will be."

"Oh, I just like to try to think!" cried Millicent. "I'm glad we made them so nice."

The twenty valentines went off in their white envelopes the next morning.

On Valentine's Day the postman brought Milly six from the six little girls and two from Jimmy-Boy and Aunt Sara. They were lovely, and there were some for Jimmy-Boy, but they did not please the children nearly as much as a letter that came a week later.

It was from the hospital superintendent and said: "I wish you could have seen my dear little sick girls smile when they saw their pretty valentines. They looked at them all day and slept with them under their pillows at night. One tiny girl kept hers in her hand. They all send a big 'Thank you' to Millicent and Jimmy-Boy."

"Next year we'll begin sooner and make forty," Millicent decided; "it's lots more fun than getting them, isn't it, Jimmy-Boy?"

Happy Valentine's Day



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Valentines Poems



--St. Valentine Day is a day of the year when you can express your love to the people you appreciate. A legend say that St. Valentine was a Christian priest. He had been thrown in prison and beheaded on February 14, because he secretly married couples-it was forbidden. And also because he performed a miracle: he healed a jailer's daughter of blindness. He wrote her a letter and signed it "From your Valentine".

Most people send "Be My Valentines" on that day - greeting cards, which can be romantic, sentimental or funny. The card can be anonymous. Valentine cards became popular in Great Britain in the nineteenth century. If you want to make your own Valentine card use your imagination. To help you - the most traditional symbols are: hearts, roses and cupid. Place a short poem or a quote.

Many historians believe that sending poems on this day originated with the capture of Duke of Orleans, during the Battle of Agincourt. He sent his wife a rhyming love letter, from his prison cell in the Tower of London. February 14 became the date for exchanging love messages and Saint Valentine became the patron saint of lovers.

In our days people give gifts as well as cards to the people they love.

We try to be selective in picking the most loved poems, so you can enjoy while reading them, and also send them to your beloved to express your feelings. You will find the most famous Valentines quotes from famous people and respected authors.

Enjoy your free time with friends and try funny Valentines games. Try making easy Valentines recipes and cookies, these sweets for sure will become your family favorite.

Give your partner a kiss and show how much you love him. "A quick kiss is a great

sign of affection, takes no time and costs nothing." This guarantees you a wonderful and unforgettable day.

Love

"All love, at first, like generous wine,
Ferments and frets until 'tis fine,
But, when 'tis settled on the lee,
And from th' impurer matter free,
Becomes the richer still the older,
And Proves the pleasanter the colder "
Samuel Butler



Going Steady
Valentine, O, Valentine,
I'll be your love and you'll be mine.
We'll care for each other, rain or fine,
and in 90 years we'll be 99.

Ian Serraillier

A Valentine
Today as Valentines go out,
To people near and far,
This one I'm sending right to you,
To say how nice you are.



Happy Valentines
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A Prisoner's Valentine - by Millicent Olmsted (Adapted)

*Charles, Duke of Orleans, who was taken prisoner at the battle of Agincourt in 1415, and detained in England twenty-five years, was the author of the earliest known written valentines. He left about sixty of them. They were written during his confinement in the Tower of London, and are still to be seen among the royal papers in the British Museum.

One of his valentines reads as follows:

Wilt thou be mine?
Dear Love, reply.
Sweetly consent or else deny.
Whisper softly,
none shall know,
Wilt thou be mine, Love?
Aye or no?

"Spite of Fortune,
we may be Happy by one word from thee.
Life flies swiftly
- ere it go
Wilt thou be mine, Love?
- aye or no?"



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Sport

Football: Advantage United in Madrid, fans die in Donetsk

PARIS (AFP) - Manchester United edged closer to the Champions League quarter-finals with a 1-1 draw at Real Madrid on Wednesday, a high-profile showdown watched by an estimated 200 million people worldwide.

England striker Danny Welbeck gave Alex Ferguson's side the lead at the Bernabeu before former Old Trafford star Cristiano Ronaldo levelled later in the first half.

In the night's other last-16 tie, German champions Borussia Dortmund drew 2-2 at Shakhtar Donetsk in a game overshadowed by a horrifying plane crash at the Ukraine city's airport which killed five fans.

In a match described by Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho as the clash the "whole world was waiting for", it was the home side who came close early on with United keeper David De Gea, playing in the city of his birth, pushing a Fabio Coentrao drive onto the post.

But it was United who snatched the lead after 20 minutes when Welbeck shrugged off the attentions of Sergio Ramos to head in a Wayne Rooney corner.

Real were level after half an hour with Ronaldo living up the huge pre-match hype by scoring against his former club.

Ronaldo out-jumped Patrice Evra to send a powerful header off an Angel Di Maria left-wing cross past De Gea.

The Portuguese star's subdued celebrations reflected the warmth with which he still regards United where he spent six seasons.

De Gea, thriving in the city where he made his name with

Atletico, was on hand again early in the second period to deny Di Maria before Japan's Shinji Kagawa made way for veteran Ryan Giggs making his 150th European appearance.

Robin van Persie then saw a shot saved by Diego Lopez with the ball coming back off the crossbar while, moments later, the Dutchman miscued a close range effort which was cleared off the line by Xabi Alonso.

Van Persie said that home advantage in the second leg in March does not mean that the tie is over.

In Donetsk, five fans of the Ukraine team, who had flown in for the match, were killed when their Antonov AN-24 plane, arriving from Odessa, was forced into an emergency landing.

There was a minute's silence before kick-off at the Donbass Arena.

Dortmund, the 1997 European champions, almost snatched an early lead when Mats Hummels headed against the crossbar from a corner.

But it was Shakhtar who took a 30th-minute lead when a Darijo Srna free-kick evaded the Dortmund defence before beating goalkeeper Roman Weidenfeller.

The German champions were level four minutes before the interval when Robert Lewandowski found the target after being set-up by Mario Goetze.

Shakhtar regained the lead after 68 minutes when substitute Douglas Costa scored with a left-foot drive but Dortmund finished on top and Hummels levelled for 2-2 with three minutes left.



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Tennis: Federer speeds to opening Rotterdam win



ROTTERDAM (AFP) - Roger Federer began the defence of his Rotterdam World Tennis title by crushing Slovenia's Grega Zemlja 6-3, 6-1 in just 57 minutes on Wednesday.

Federer advanced effortlessly into the second round over last autumn's Vienna finalist and next faces Dutchman Thiemo de Bakker.

The Swiss top seed, and world number two, improved to 22-5 in Rotterdam as he plays the event for the eighth time, never losing before the quarter-finals.

Zemlja slipped to 1-9 against top 10 opposition after beating number nine Janko Tipsarevic in the Vienna semi-finals before losing to Juan Martin del Potro.

Federer raced through the opening set in 29 minutes with

a break in the final game and rolled on in the second, taking a 3-1 lead before closing out with a break in the penultimate game and a love game to finish with a service winner.

"I've been here and preparing for a few days, but matches are always different than training," said Federer. "The ball flies a bit and you have to be prepared."

"I'll have to be careful against De Bakker. I played him in the Davis Cup (2012). The local players always get up for home matches. I'll have to approach him carefully and not underestimate him."

French seeds moved smoothly on with number four Richard Gasquet picking up where he left off after winning the Montpellier title at the weekend.

The world number 10 cited the tiebreaker as crucial in a 7-6 (7/3), 6-1 defeat of Serb Victor Troicki to reach the second round.

Gasquet is the first man this season on the ATP Tour to win more than one title after starting out in January with Doha honours.

The last time he won more than one title in a season was 2006 when he claimed three.

"I've only lost once this year," said Gasquet whose year record stands at 15-1.

Fifth seed Gilles Simon won his second-round encounter with Italian Matteo Viola 6-3, 6-1 while compatriot Julien Benneteau joined him in the quarter-finals at the Ahoy stadium with a victory over Romanian Victor Hanesu, 6-1, 6-3.

German qualifier Matthias Bachinger earned an upset win over Andreas Seppi, the Italian sixth seed, 6-3, 6-4.





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Tennis: Azarenka rides Gulf breeze past Oprandi in opener



DOHA (AFP) - Victoria Azarenka's bid to hold on to her Qatar Open title, and the world number one ranking, began with victory over herself, a treacherous wind, world number 62 and Romina Oprandi on Wednesday.

Azarenka's 6-2, 6-3 success

was encouraging both in the way she responded to being within a point of losing the first three games in irritating conditions and for her maturing sense of adaptability.

There were moments when the 23-year-old resorted to cursing and racket swishing, but Azarenka's frustration never got out of control and her grip on the match increased as her mind imposed its focus.

With Serena Williams' fitness still the subject of speculation, and with Maria Sharapova needing both Williams and Azarenka to falter if she is to regain the pinnacle, the top-seeded Belarussian could yet hang on to the top spot.

The title-holder also took satisfaction from her ratio of successful moves to the net, winning 15 of her 20 attempts in what is not an area of special strength for her.

It was Azarenka's first match since retaining her Australian Open title in Melbourne three weeks ago, and underlined her better physical condition than Williams.

The Wimbledon and US Open champion's strapped up ankle will be tested again on Thursday by a last-16 clash against Urszula Radwanska, the younger of the two Polish sisters.

Azarenka's last-16 match is against Christina McHale, the world number 44 from the

United States.

A repeat on Saturday of her semi-final last year with Agnieszka Radwanska, the world number four, looks very possible, though she cannot hold on to the top ranking if Williams is still surviving at that stage.

Radwanska, whose intelligent, well-controlled game seems well suited to the conditions, earlier reached the last 16 with comfortable win, by 6-3, 6-2 over Anastasia Rodionova, a qualifier from Australia.

She next plays Ana Ivanovic, the former world number one from Serbia.



SAINT-GERMAIN-EN-LAYE (AFP) : Paris Saint-Germain's British midfielder David Beckham arrives for a training session on February 13, 2013 at the club's Camp des Loges training center in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, near Paris. Beckham, PSG's latest prized signing, is taking part in his first full training session today, with the view to possibly making his debut in February 17's L1 match at Sochaux.

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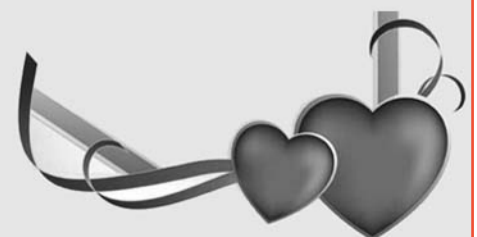
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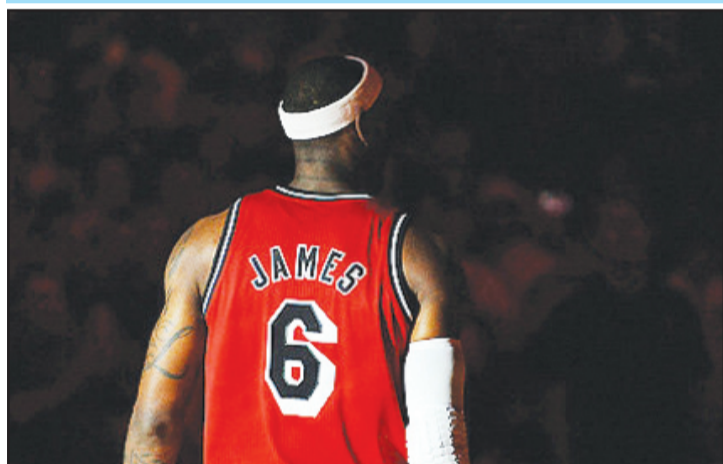
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NBA: James sets record in win over Trail Blazers



MIAMI (AFP) - LeBron James became the first player to score at least 30 points and shoot 60 percent in six consecutive games as the Miami Heat wrapped up a homestand with a 117-104 win over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Reigning league MVP James finished with 30 points and nine assists in the final contest of a five-game homestand at the American Airlines Arena on Tuesday. He also shot 11-of-15 (73.3 percent) from the field.

Chris Bosh scored 32 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, and Dwyane Wade finished with 24 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for the Heat, who

have won six straight contests.

James joined Hall of Famers Adrian Dantley and Moses Malone as the only NBA players to score 30-plus points and shoot at least 60 percent five straight times in the Heat's previous win.

Now he is the first NBA player to do it in six straight games.

"To see how small the list was and for me to even be part of that list to start off was -- wow," James said. "To have a record for myself is an honor.

"I was just in a flow. I wanted to be aggressive early in the game. I just went with the flow of the game. I didn't pressure anything. It just hap-

pened."

Damian Lillard had a game-high 33 points and LaMarcus Aldridge added 29 for the Trail Blazers, who have lost four straight. Wesley Matthews had 20 points on eight-of-13 shooting in the loss.

Portland led 57-43 with just under five minutes left in the second quarter, but the Heat outscored Portland 15-2 to go into halftime trailing 59-58.

Miami carried the momentum into the third quarter, using a 23-8 run to take an 81-

67 lead en route to the win.

The Heat now embark on a four-game road trip against Oklahoma City, Atlanta, Chicago and Philadelphia.

The game also marked Miami's 1,000th win in team history (1,000-969).



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MUMBAI (AFP) - : Indian wrestlers grapple during an evening practice session at the Mahatma Phule Vyayam Mandir Kushti (traditional Indian wrestling) academy in Mumbai on February 13, 2013. Wrestlers around the world on Wednesday vowed to fight to save the ancient sport's Olympic status, after the International Olympic Committee voted to drop it for the 2020 Games.